

West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics

17350 Hazel Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456

Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 19, 2024, 5:30PM

Minutes - Approved

- I. **Call to Order** – President Tim Tiefenbach called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.
- II. **Roll Call – Declaration of a Quorum** – Present: Tim Tiefenbach (President), Melisa Sass (Vice President), Brooke Karl (Treasurer), Kris Jones (Secretary), Sara Heacox (Trustee). Also present: Maggie Malone (Head of School/Superintendent), Liz Johnson (Business Manager), Matt Cawood (GVSU Rep) virtual.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Reading of West Michigan Academy of Arts and Academics Mission Statement**
Empowering students to reach their ultimate personal success through the unique integration of arts and academics.
- V. **Public Comments** – There were no public comments.
- VI. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion was made by B. Karl, supported by M. Sass to approve the agenda as written. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.
- VII. **Correspondence** – There was no correspondence.
- VIII. **Approve Board Meeting Minutes: September 24, 2024** – A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by B. Karl to approve the minutes as written. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.
- IX. **Board President's Report**
 - a. Board Policy Updates (TBD) – They will be presented at the January Board Meeting.
 - b. Strategic Planning Process Update - T. Tiefenbach reported that Tom Tenbrink, from Michigan Leadership Institute, will be at WMAAA on 11/21 for a listening tour. Various stakeholders will have an opportunity to meet with him, via in person or virtual. The committee will meet for a work session on December 2 and 16. From there, goals will be developed.
 - a. Legislative Update - Senate Education Committee Hearing charter equitable compliance standards- T. Tiefenbach reported this legislation, introduced by Dr. Mitchell Robinson, is to require Charter Schools to be more transparent, held to the same level and accountability as the traditional schools. This won't have a big impact on our school.
 - b. PS Quarterly Report – T. Tiefenbach reviewed some highlights of the report.
 - c. Partnership with the Tri Cities YMCA – We have partnered with the YMCA for them to rent our space for their preschool program, and will also be offering after school care to students who wish to sign up. They are also incorporating our logo and name on their marketing materials.
- II. **Superintendent/Head of School's Report**
 - a. Student Council – Emmerson DeBoer reported that this Thursday, will be Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp auditions, they are preparing for the jingle bell parade, there will be dancing and music. Aila Gentry reported they had their first school dance for the year, they are selling leftover snacks during middle school lunch only. Charley Yarnold reported that the fall play was last week.
 - b. Principal – Parent/Family engagement update, visible strategy – Mark Frost reported they are celebrating perfect attendance by issuing certificates and announcing student names and the fall play was excellent.
 - c. School Social Worker – Monthly mental health topics – Lindsay Watson, Social Worker, reported that she and Natalie Jacobs work together in various areas. Some areas of focus is kids learning

self and behavior regulation, trauma, and anxiety. She and Natalie also support students with a 504 plan.

- d. Michigan Arts Educator Association State Conference – Heather Minnebo, Visual Arts teacher, attended the annual Michigan Art Education Association State conference. She enjoyed meeting the keynote speakers, watching lego print making, and met people for future collaboration projects.
- e. Highlights of Written Report
 - i. Partnering with Melanie from the Grand Rapids Ballet – M. Malone stated we will continue our partnership with the Grand Rapids Ballet.
 - ii. Presented at GVSU Round Table – M. Malone was invited to speak on a panel to young educators.

III. Committee Reports

- a. Finance & Audit
 - i. 2024 Financial Audit Overview – B. Karl reported the committee met on November 11th, and reviewed the final audit. We ended with an unmodified opinion, with no findings, and we ended in the black, by approximately \$38k. We were notified by the State that our food costs exceeded the State limit. No corrective action is needed on our end. The committee will have a first revised budget to present at the January meeting, several grants have been applied for, and the preschool program is up and running and will bring in \$500 / month in rental income.
 - ii. October Financials – The committee reviewed the financials.
- b. Arts & Academics
 - i. Committee formed & met twice – Kris Jones reported the committee has met a couple of times. The first time was more of an introduction and the second meeting is more visionary and how the Board can assist. The current test data is embargoed, but will be presented at the January Board Meeting.
- c. Governance – T. Tiefenbach reported they have not met.

IV. GVSU Report


- a. Compliance Status Update – Matt Cawood reported virtually, there is a virtual board training coming up on December 16th, they are working on the 2023-24 performance review, and we are 100% for compliance reporting.
- b. Other?

V. Potential Topics for January 28, 2025 Board Meeting

- Bd policy updates, follow up with absenteeism, data presentation, revision budget

VI. Public Comments – There were no comments.

VII. Adjournment – A motion was made by M. Sass, supported by K. Jones to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 PM. All in favor 5-0, motion passed.


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